

Introduction

Congregation Beth Meir/Chabad

Welcome! Welcome to the North County Chabad Center of Yorba Linda, California. Whether you have come to our Jewish Community Center out of curiosity or for our great educational opportunities for both children and adults, everyone is welcome at our center. It is refreshing to find people here who *really* care about each individual person. Our Chabad Center is made up of men and women, families and singles who have many levels of observance, but still love the Jewish traditions. Everyone is welcome! This is a place to learn about yourself and your Jewish heritage.

The history of our congregation began many, many years ago with nothing more than just an idea. It started over twenty years ago when a few Israeli soldiers were visiting California and had attended services at Temple Beth Emet in Anaheim. They wanted to start a small synagogue here in North Orange County that was more traditional than what the Conservative synagogue had to offer. A few more Jewish residents from Temple Beth Emet also joined them to find a rabbi to conduct services for them. So, they contacted Chabad and the Hebrew Academy in Westminster, California, for assistance.

In the fall of 1982, Rabbi David Eliezrie and his wife, Stella, came to Anaheim from Miami. Thanks to the Hebrew Academy-Lubavitch, of Long Beach, and their generous, financial support, Rabbi Eliezrie was able to begin providing a wide variety of educational and

community projects to the Anaheim residents. At first, he held services in his home and then began conducting services in a little storefront on Euclid Street in Anaheim. On December 1, 1982, “Chabad Center of Anaheim”, had its official opening.* A copy of the announcement is included on page *xxiv*. However, the demographics were not right in Anaheim and Rabbi Eliezie struggled to get his shul off the ground.

Sometimes, it takes more than just hopes and dreams to build a vibrant Jewish congregation. Rabbi Eliezie wrote to the Rebbe on 29 Teves, 5746 (1986) asking for his advice and his blessings to know where to go to get started. A copy of that letter written to the Rebbe on “Chabad Community Center of Anaheim” letterhead in Hebrew script can be seen on page *xxvi*. A translation is shown on the next page with the Rebbe’s reply.

At about the same time, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the holy Lubavitcher Rebbe began a program every Sunday to give a one-dollar bill to anyone who came to him seeking his advice or who wanted to ask him a question. The Rebbe explained his custom by quoting his father-in-law, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak of Lubavitch, who would often say, “When two people meet, something good should result for a third.”** The Rebbe wished to elevate each of these encounters into something more meaningful than just a meeting of two people.

A most amazing phenomenon happened when Rabbi David Eliezie met with the Rebbe in 1986. A photograph of that amazing meeting is on page *xxiii*. When the Rebbe met with Rabbi Eliezie, he gave him a dollar bill, looked him straight in the eye and gave him a

*Source: “We’re Moving! New Chabad Facility Opens in Anaheim”

**Source: “1986: ‘Sunday Dollars’” excerpted from www.chabad.org

mission: to connect Jews to Yiddishkeit by opening their hearts and souls to the intellectual, emotional and spiritual wealth that is their birthright. Rabbi Eliezrie knew that he would be personally responsible for connecting every Jew in his community to their Jewish heritage.

Rebbe Schneerson officially appointed Rabbi Eliezrie to be his personal agent (shliach) to the Jewish community of North Orange County. He gave him his blessing for Hatzlocho (success) in his new mission, as evidenced by a personal letter to him, dated Purim, 5746 / Purim, 1986. A copy of this letter is seen on page *xxv*. This was the spark that Rabbi David Eliezrie needed to ignite his passion to bring together the Jewish community! His goal was to create a positive, joyous Jewish experience that would reach out to every Jew that walked in his door!

Nothing happens by chance. Every event in our lives is part of a Divine Plan, even if we don't realize it at that time. One day, the Rabbi's bookkeeper was driving down Yorba Linda Boulevard in Yorba Linda and saw a "For Sale" sign in front of an old, two-story yellow farmhouse. After much struggle and effort, Rabbi Eliezrie purchased that rustic, yellow farmhouse located on its two-acre site and escrow closed and recorded on July 13, 1988. A copy of the original grant deed is on page *xxviii*. However, while he waited for the City to give him an occupancy permit and a zoning change, Rabbi Eliezrie still conducted services in his home. They opened their home and hearts to everyone.

A photo of the rabbi was published as he proudly posted a temporary sign at the site to draw attention to the synagogue's new location. He declared, "Where

currently stands a house, there will someday stand a synagogue. It'll be the first in Yorba Linda,”*

The synagogue became “official” after a city-approved zoning change. Rabbi David Eliezrie began conducting the first services in the old, yellow house and Stanley Sigal was our first Chazzan. The services were sung with such great joy and heartfelt spirit! Our voices surely could be heard in Heaven! Everyone contributed something to our little shul. Barry Lovinger built a homemade ark and the rabbi found a Torah scroll. A small group of people joined them to begin davening in the tiny living room. It was true that there wasn't enough room for everyone to sit, so the women sat in the adjoining dining room. The kitchen couldn't be used, because the cabinets and countertops were falling apart. The rabbi's office was upstairs, which was dangerously accessible only by climbing an old, rickety staircase. Although the house was very dilapidated physically, we all still loved the spiritual feeling of praying together in that old, yellow house!

The first Hebrew school class was held in that old house and Robin Rubenstein was the first Principal. She loved the children and took many photographs of their classroom experiences. On the cover of this book is a photograph she took of the children from our first graduation class standing at the back door of the old, yellow house.

Rabbi Eliezrie had great hopes and visions for our future. He said that he imagined, “an 8,000-square-foot community center which would include three classrooms, a social hall as well as a new sanctuary to replace the weathered, two-story house”. An artist's rendering of his vision can be seen on page xxxii.

* Source: *Yorba Linda Star*, “Synagogue Finds A Home” by Janette Neumann, September 15, 1988

Although he had only been the congregation's rabbi for six years, he said that, "the main function of the center would be to reach out to Jews who have distanced themselves from Jewish tradition. People come here for spiritual direction, a sense of community...a sense of belonging."*

On the 28th day of Teves, 5750/ 25 January 1990, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson sent another letter to Rabbi Eliezrie congratulating him on his progress of establishing the North County Chabad Center (page xxxi). It was a truly a miracle to see our shul grow as more and more people wanted to build a Jewish community that welcomed everyone. The Rebbe's words of advice came true: we would be a place for future generations to learn about their heritage, a place to gather the Jews of North Orange County by opening their hearts, eyes and ears to the vitality of Torah and learning to do more and more mitzvahs. We were truly blessed!

"The Rebbe often quotes the Talmud dictum, 'He who has 100 wants 200, he who has 200 wants 400'. The Talmud says this in reference to the pursuit of financial success. The Rebbe says we must also apply this principle in reference to enriching other Jews. Once one hundred are inspired, we need to inspire 200, once 200 have been reached, we need to double our efforts again. In the years to come, Chabad in Orange County & Long Beach will attempt to follow the Rebbe's vision and re-double its efforts to build a strong, dynamic, Jewish community."**

One of the first steps in building a strong, dynamic Jewish community is educating Jews about

* Source: *Orange County Register*, "Yorba Linda Group Launches Campaign to Build New Center", February 9, 1989

** Source: *Orange County Jewish Heritage*, February, 1990

their heritage. Rabbi David Eliezrie didn't let the lack of his own building stop him from his mission. He began attracting Jews by offering a Torah class every Wednesday at lunch hour at the Jewish Community Center in Costa Mesa. The basic problem faced today is Jewish ignorance,' Rabbi Eliezrie said. 'What I'm trying to do in a sacred way is to educate them. The more they learn, the greater their fidelity to their heritage.'*

For many in the study group, it was the first time that they had heard a rabbi who based everything he said on verifiable quotes from the great sages and quotes from the great works of the Talmud and Gemara. The students who came to his class came from a mixture of Jewish backgrounds just to learn under his tutelage and Jewish scholarship. It was the love of learning Torah that brought Jews from as far away as Irvine and Villa Park to hear Rabbi David Eliezrie. "To deepen faith and gain a better understanding of Jewish life is why many come to the Jewish Community Center...for Torah study. It doesn't matter that the rabbi comes from the Chabad Center of North Orange County,"**

The really, remarkable story is how this congregation attracted Jews from all over Orange County. Although it started from humble beginnings in a small farmhouse and grew to a 12,000 square foot building project, this is really a story about the **people** who came here and their need for a special, spiritual place of worship and an exceptional, educational center that was welcoming to Jews from all backgrounds.

* Source: *The Orange County Register*, "Torah Class Takes Jews on a Journey to Discover More of their Heritage", October 29, 1993

** Source: *Orange County Register*, "Jews from a Variety of Traditions look to an Orthodox Rabbi for their Lessons", Venise Wagner, October 29, 1993

In 1995, we had the beginnings of a small core of congregants who supported the charismatic Rabbi Eliezrie and believed that we were ready to build a modern synagogue. Knowing that he had to keep in line with strict Talmudic laws for constructing a synagogue, the rabbi envisioned our future synagogue to be built taller than any other building in the city, yet it should not be ostentatious. He hired an architect to make an artistic rendering of what it would eventually look like. The architect's rendering can be seen on page *xxxii*. The most important feature would be the Ark where the Torah scroll would be kept. It must face East towards Jerusalem. There should be twelve windows each one representing one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. There should be an elevated reader's platform in the center of the shul where everyone could hear the Torah being read and could see the Torah being held up high. There must be a divider between the men and women, to help avoid distractions, but they would all have equal access to the Torah when it was walked around the entire shul. Most of all, he wanted it to be built to inspire everyone with a sense of awe and reverence.

Our first step was the demolition of the old, yellow farmhouse. Now it would take extensive planning, considerable money and much patience to make our dream come true. Since he didn't have the farmhouse any more, the Rabbi and Rebbetzin decided to hold the services in their own house. Rabbi Eliezrie moved the Torah and Ark to his family room. We held services there and Stella and the women sat upstairs at the table overlooking the family room. It was crowded, but very friendly and family-oriented. At other times, we all would sit in his living room on Friday nights for discussions on the Torah reading for that week. People were amazed to find a rabbinical family that was so hospitable as to open their own home to the Jewish community. There were so many people who attended these Torah discussions that many people had to sit on

the floor as well as the couches and chairs. We obviously needed more room to hold services. We were growing!

Meanwhile, the rabbi had to move his office to a tiny, two-room, windowless office in a commercial complex on Lakeview Avenue. There were innumerable details for the rabbi to plan for in the building in order to comply with the City of Yorba Linda's General Plan. All of the infrastructure, underground water lines, electrical power lines, telephone lines and driveway had to be constructed before the building could even be started. He was responsible for meeting with the Planning Department as well as the architect. In addition, in order to continue the operation of the Hebrew school while we were under construction, Rabbi Eliezrie temporarily had to use two classrooms across the street in the Methodist Church. They were kind enough to let our children meet in their classrooms. Rabbi Moshe Rodman was the Hebrew School Director at that time and Rabbi Richler was his young assistant.

The next step began with constructing the wood framing for the sanctuary. On page 33 is the very first photograph of those beams of wood stretching up to the sky. You could see right through the sticks and out to Yorba Linda Boulevard in one photograph. In another photograph, Rabbi Eliezrie is standing in front of the wooden, front wall proudly showing everyone the first step in construction. There was so much enthusiasm and hopefulness in those days!

It took two, long years before we were even ready to formally announce the completion of the new sanctuary. On June 2, 1997, the rabbi wrote a letter to the entire Jewish community of North Orange County excitedly announcing that, "History is in the making! Construction is underway for the new North County Chabad Center/Congregation Beth Meir HaCohen." He

brought a natural stone all the way from the holy city of Jerusalem to be laid as our cornerstone. It represented an historical link between the new synagogue today and our ancient legacy. The rabbi wrote heartfelt words of enthusiasm, because he truly believed that the new Center would be, “a place for every Jew. A place to educate the young, a place for the community to meet, a place to celebrate our traditions, a place to reach out to all Jews regardless of background or affiliation.” A copy of this memorable invitation is shown on page 30. Thus, it seemed most fitting to name this book: A Place for Our Future: Building a Jewish Community in Yorba Linda, California.

On June 22, 1997, at 10:30 a.m., we held our Groundbreaking Ceremony for Phase One of the new construction: our Holy Sanctuary! It was another step in our development and a big one at that time. Although some of us recall with nostalgia tearing down the old, yellow house, we also knew that we needed to expand our sanctuary to accommodate the many people who were coming here searching for a positive, joyous, complete, meaningful, Jewish experience, instead of an “abbreviated” service.

Rabbi Yitzchok Newman of the Hebrew Academy in Long Beach gave the opening speech. A copy of the artist’s rendering of the new sanctuary on the invitation is enclosed along with a copy of the program. Many photographs were taken at the time, but the highlight was the laying of the Jerusalem cornerstone by Rabbi Shmuel Dovid Raicheck, of blessed memory, a special emissary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe himself. The photograph of the event can be seen on page 32 and shows him holding the cornerstone with Rabbi David Eliezrie and Rabbi Yitzchok Newman on each side of him. The Rebbe took a special interest in our Jewish community and sent his personal emissary on his

behalf. The Rebbe's prophecy for a new, vigorous Jewish community was beginning to come true.

When the sanctuary was completed, we planted a grassy area in front of the front door. Photos of the entrance and the side of our beautiful new sanctuary can be seen on page 35. We used that outdoor area to set up tables for different events. Behind the grassy area, we installed a large, modular building, which we used for the children's classrooms, social hall, a small library, a tiny kitchen and the rabbi's office. Behind the modular, we built a large, round, sandy ring for the children to play in and which we used to build bon-fires for Lag B'Omer. Our beautiful, new sanctuary and the playground became a focus for our activities. We thought we had everything we could possibly need!

We are fortunate to have in our congregation one family who is very involved in many aspects of our community's activities. Ira and Linda Cohen and their children, Michael and Heather, each contribute their own, unique talents in ways that many may not even be aware of. Linda Cohen is a great organizer and has a love for entertaining. She has opened their home many times for speakers to come to her home and has presented many dinners for the community. Ira comes to shul every week and sometimes leads portions of the service and many other times reads the Torah or Haftorah beautifully for us. He is endowed with a special spirituality that reaches to the soul of everyone who hears him read. In addition, he has been gifted with a desire to conduct shiva services beautifully, if the need arises. Perhaps, for these and many other reasons, they both decided that it was time that our community has its very own, new Torah. So, on September 15, 2001, they donated a Torah scroll and organized a Torah Dedication. A memento from the Torah Dedication is

included in this book along with a photograph of Ira holding the Torah under the chuppah along with Linda as the whole congregation is walking the Torah to its new home in our new sanctuary.

From then on, we had our services with two Torah scrolls in the new sanctuary. If we needed to have a Friday night dinner, then we just moved the chairs around to convert it into a social hall. We were very creative at celebrating all of the Jewish holidays, by just adding more chairs to the one room. Everyone volunteered to move the chairs around and set up the tables whenever it was necessary. In the summer, we celebrated on the large, grassy field between the sanctuary and the modular building. We were very content that we had solved all of our problems. However, the City of Yorba Linda said we could only keep the modular for a maximum of three years. After that we had to remove it and build something permanent.

Our friendly philosophy is to “love each Jew as you would love yourself” and many more people continued to feel that spirit in our community. For example, our Sukkot tent on the dirt lot behind the modular building had to be enlarged each year to accommodate all of the people who were coming here for dinner! We kept growing and Rabbi Eliezrie’s vision was to expand even more! So, again, we boxed up all the books in the library and moved the piano out of the classroom. We moved the big, commercial refrigerator and all of the kitchen equipment out of the modular. Our wonderful secretary and dear friend, Ellen Poor, helped organize moving Rabbi Eliezrie’s office and all of the equipment to the Rabbi’s house temporarily. In just one day, our old combination social hall-classroom-library-office-kitchen, modular building was wheeled away.

On September 25, 2005, we laid the cornerstone for Phase Two of our construction growth. The ceremony took place on an empty, but tremendously large, dirt lot. It was hot that day, but no one complained. It all began with the first shovelful of dirt ceremonially dug together by Rabbi Eliezrie, Ira Cohen and Rabbi Yitzchok Newman. A photo of that moment can be seen on page 49. All of the beautiful photographs were taken by one of our members, Cliff Lester, a professional photographer and college professor in photography, who preserved this special occasion for us. Many photographs were taken of that day's events (pages 49, 50). It was no longer just a dream, but becoming a reality. The lot looked so empty now. It was hard to imagine what would be built next.

Again, it was Rabbi Eliezrie who has been gifted with the ambition and leadership to expand our community center and to reach as many people as possible. He knew that people not only wanted a sanctuary, but more people would come if there was a beautiful, elegant social hall where they could eat meals together with their friends and celebrate happy simchas together. A picture of Rabbi Eliezrie standing on the empty dirt lot by a piece of heavy equipment is on page 82. He is an innovator and builder. Leave it to him to get on that earthmover and start making progress. Next, he started a tremendous fund-raising project. It was his idea to build this new expansion without borrowing any funds from a bank or going into any debt whatsoever! No one has ever undertaken such a colossal project with this goal in mind. It would probably take a million dollars to complete such an overwhelming project, but he was willing to try.

The New Plan included building a community center with a full library, large social hall, a kosher kitchen and indoor bathrooms. As a side note, while the

new extension was under construction, everyone either had to use the portables or had to walk down the street to the nearby Jessamyn West Park. No one will forget those days! Someday, there will be a separate, Education Building large enough to hold classrooms for a pre-school as well as several Hebrew school classes and plenty of room for the children to play in their own youth activity room and on the outdoor playground.

Rabbi David Eliezrie also wants to build a new mikvah, a ceremonial bathing pool, on the far Northside of the Education building with its own, separate entrance and separate parking lot. It would be Orange County's first mikvah! Many people have shown some curiosity about it and Rabbi Eliezrie will be giving some instructions on the laws of family purity. As more men and women understand the laws of using a mikvah, he hopes that it will be used more frequently. It will take time and lots of planning, but we will complete this project before you know it. The most important element is to pray for natural rainwater to fill it up. If we don't have enough rainwater, then Rabbi Shuey Eliezrie and Rabbi Levi Blesofsky will have to drive up to the mountains and bring back some bags of freshly fallen snow instead. We are well on our way to completing the construction of this project, too.

Recently, Grant Biniasz of the *Orange County Register* wrote an article for the local *Yorba Linda Star* entitled, "Chabad Expanding to Meet Needs: Construction on New Campus for Growing Jewish Community is Underway,"* in which he described the progress of our construction so far. Many people in Yorba Linda were curious about what we were doing. As of January 19, 2006, we were beginning Phase Two of construction. The concrete was laid for a separate, new Education Building which would not only include

* Source: *Yorba Linda Star*, January 19, 2006, p.1

classrooms, but offices and a social hall for the children with its own kitchen. Rabbi Eliezrie said, “It’s going to be stunning. It won’t be the largest synagogue in Orange County, but it will be the most beautiful.” He said, “the new buildings will be consistent with the sanctuary’s ‘Old World’ look, with curved windows and walkways lined with Jerusalem stone shipped from Israel...This is really a statement of Jewish growth in the community.”

Many people are very excited about the new, expanded construction to their sanctuary. Ira Cohen and his wife, Linda, have lived in Yorba Linda for almost twenty years. He said, “The current building is magnificent, but going from a religious function to a social function takes a lot of energy.” Linda said, “the construction of a kosher kitchen will allow the synagogue to host more family events, since all the food currently used for celebrations or holidays must be catered from kosher kitchens in Los Angeles.” Linda has been driving into Los Angeles to obtain her kosher food for years and has been a pivotal hostess/organizer of the meals here at the synagogue.*

As of today, January 19, 2006, Rabbi Eliezrie estimates that construction will be finished “within six months.” Additional photographs of the latest construction details are posted on the website, <http://www.ocjewish.com>.

As we look back at how far we have come, we know it is because of the special friends who have come here. There are so many people who should be thanked for all that they have contributed in so many ways to the growth of our congregation. This book is dedicated to the many people who have taken that spiritual journey

* Source: *Yorba Linda Star*, “Chabad Expanding to Meet Needs; Construction on New Campus for Growing Jewish Community is Underway”, Grant Biniasz, January 19, 2006

of learning more about their Jewish heritage and the laws of Torah under the tutelage of Rabbi David Eliezrie. This book contains the stories and photographs of some of the original members of the North County Chabad Center and what drew them to want to come here to be a part of this congregation. Thanks to Ellie Kahn, a professional oral historian, she was able to capture the unique personalities of a few people and share their stories in this book. There were many other people who also had stories to contribute, but not all of them were able to be included.

Some people didn't even know what it really meant to be Jewish and have made a journey of tremendous personal growth here by attending the adult Torah classes. Some of the children who attended Hebrew school here are now adults and have kept coming back, because they have found something here that has touched their hearts with Yiddishkeit joy. Others grew up in a warm, loving Jewish environment and wanted to carry on that tradition to their children. Everyone has a story to tell that reflects their love for our congregation and keeps them coming back either every week, every holiday or every now and then. Everyone is always welcome, children and adults alike.

Here is a place where you can truly feel like you belong and you can continually learn something new about Judaism, from studying the weekly Torah lessons on Shabbos morning with the rabbi to attending one of the many evening classes that the rabbi teaches through the Jewish Learning Institute. There is something for everyone. We are a small, "haimish" [home-like or friendly] congregation of families and singles that share not only Jewish holidays, but also the desire to pass on our traditions to our children through a good Jewish education and family traditions. Generally, our congregation is small enough so that everyone knows everyone else or at least recognizes familiar faces. New

faces are always welcomed with a friendly smile and there is always someone to greet visitors and answer their questions. In fact, we welcome everyone here without regard to level of observance or Jewish background.

As you read this book, you will meet people who have come from all over the world and have been happy that they found this congregation. From Shushan in Persia, from Zhitomir and Kiev in Russia, from Tel Aviv in Israel, from Johannesburg in South Africa, from Tehran in Iran, from Port Said in Egypt, and from Hartford, Connecticut in the United States of America to Yorba Linda, California, we are all one Jewish family. We want you to meet some of the earliest acquaintances to our congregation and some of the most endearing, wonderful friends, each unique and special, who were the founding members of our little Jewish congregation.

Linda Rattner Nunn
September, 2007



Source: www.chabad.org

The Rebbe hands Rabbi Eliezrie a \$1 dollar bill and gives his blessing to start a new Community Center in Southern California.

WE'RE MOVING

NEW CHABAD FACILITY OPENS IN ANAHEIM

The Chabad Center of Anaheim will be officially opening it's new facility as of December 1. The new center located at 1335 Euclid Ave will provide space for services, educational and community activities, offices and meeting room.

Rabbi David Eliezrie, director of Chabad in North Orange County noted "We are very happy to move into our own home. It will enable us to expand our programs and activities to better serve the Jewish community".

Renovations to the facility where done by the Chabad membership.

Shabbos Services will be held at the facility starting December 3. Friday night services at 6P.M. and Shabbos morning at 9:30 A.M.. The help celebrate the opening of the new center the Megama, who will be appearing in concert Saturday evening, will be joining the community. There will be a special Kiddush after services Shabbos morning, all are invited.



CHANUKAH IS COMING, SEE PAGES 4 & 5

Chabad of Anaheim Announcing Their New Facility
on Euclid Avenue,
December 1982

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON

Lobavich
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מכתב מענדל שניאורסאהן

ליובאוויטש

770 איסטערן פארקוויי
ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
Purim Koton, 5746
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Third Anniversary Banquet
Chabad Community Center
Anaheim, CA

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming Anniversary Banquet, taking place at the end of the current month Adar I, on the eve of Rosh Chodesh Adar II. Both these months are particularly auspicious and joyous for our Jewish people, which makes the date of the event doubly favorable.

Purim has a special relevance to the cause for which you are gathered on this occasion. Purim emphasizes the vital importance of Torah education. The Midrash tells us that Haman met Jewish children coming from school and asked them what they had learned that day. In reply, they quoted verses which eventually were included in our Siddur. One verse particularly inflamed Haman: "Contrive a scheme, but it will be foiled; conspire a plot, but it will not materialize, for G-d is with us" (Isaiah 8:10). He vowed that when he puts his decree into effect, the children will be his first target.

Haman knew then that as long as the Jewish people remembered and adhered to the secret of their survival, namely - in his words - that they are "one people, (though)spread and scattered among the nations, and their (Torah-)laws are different from those of any other people"; so long, that is, as Jewish children receive Torah-true education - his plots and schemes against the Jews could not succeed.

Indeed, as he was soon to learn, when his plot collapsed and he was led to the gallows he had prepared for Mordchai - it was the extraordinary resurgence of Torah education brought about by "Mordchai the Jew," who "would not bend his knee nor bow down" before any tyrant that would presume to compel him to compromise his Jewishness, that brought about the miraculous reversal of the Jewish situation "from sadness to gladness and from fasting to feasting," bringing to the Jews of Shushan, and to Jews everywhere and in all generations, "light, joy, gladness and honor."

This, in essence, is what Chabad is all about. It is dedicated to bringing about a resurgence of Torah education, especially of the young - young not only in years, but also who are still young in Jewish experience of Torah-living. It is a cause that deserves the support of all concerned Jews and an extraordinary Z'chus for all who share in it and support it generously.

With esteem and blessing for Hatzlocho
in all above

Letter From Rabbi Shneerson
to the Chabad Community Center
Purim Koton, 5746 (February 23, 1986)



פ"ח

Chabad Community Center
 518 South Brookhurst • Anaheim, California 92804
 (714) 520-0770

כ"ל אג"א אג"א

ב"ק אבנור פ"ח

Rabbi David Eliezrie
Executive Director

Rabbi Moshe Shur
Education Director

Mali Leitner
Pre-School Director

Laurel Levey
Office Manager

Services & Agencies

- Pre-School
- Chaplaincy
- Crisis Intervention
- Hebrew School
- Cult Counteraction
- Outreach
- Community College of Jewish Studies
- Synagogue
- Youth Activities
- Speakers Bureau
- Holiday Programs
- Institute of Jewish Medical Ethics
- Phone

הנני כותב במה צ"מ (נסיון) לקנות מקום לבית
 חב"ד. יש קבוצה דברגאטצ'ק אבנור פ"ח. יאח"י יא"ע"ה,
 פ"א קבוצה הוינגטון (הוינגטון) מן העירייה. באלני הקני'
 מבלני צב"ש מקום חב"ד בכ"ג אבנור. מבלני
 אבנור צ"ח ב"ק הוינגטון. הוינגטון אבנור
 פ"ח יא"ע"ה" בע"מ של הוינגטון, יש מקום אבנור, יא"ע"ה וכו'.
 הם מוכנים לקב"א \$425,000, ולש"א \$500,000
 פ"ח 5-6 חב"ש, אבנור צ"מ אבנור ב"ק. יש לי
 אבנור פ"ח \$400,000, אבנור פ"ח אבנור.
 כב"ח אבנור ב"ק אבנור פ"ח.
 אבנור פ"ח אבנור פ"ח אבנור וכו'.

ב"ק אבנור פ"ח / ב"ק אבנור פ"ח
 אבנור פ"ח אבנור פ"ח

ג"א
 714-776-6466
 714-520-0770

Chabad / Lubavitch the largest network of religious and social services on the West Coast

Letter from Rabbi Dovid Eliezrie Requesting
 A Blessing From the Rebbe For The New Yorba Linda Property

Below is the translation of the Chabad Community Center letter from the previous page, written in Hebrew, to the Rebbe. This translation was provided by Rabbi Eliezrie.

29 Teves 5748 (January 19, 1988)

To the Rebbe:

Some time ago, we attempted to purchase a property for a Chabad Center. At the time, we received the Rebbe's blessings. After much effort, we failed to receive zoning approval. We cancelled the purchase.

Now we have found a new property on a main road. Attached is a page explaining the property [*ed. note — plat map below*]. The city says there will be no issue with zoning.

There is room for a synagogue, preschool, etc. They are willing to accept \$425,000 and a 5-6 month escrow to give us time to raise the money. I have a woman who has committed \$80,000 and others who want to give. I'd like to request the Rebbe's blessing on the above for success in this endeavor.

Dovid Eliezer ben Dvora Eliezrie

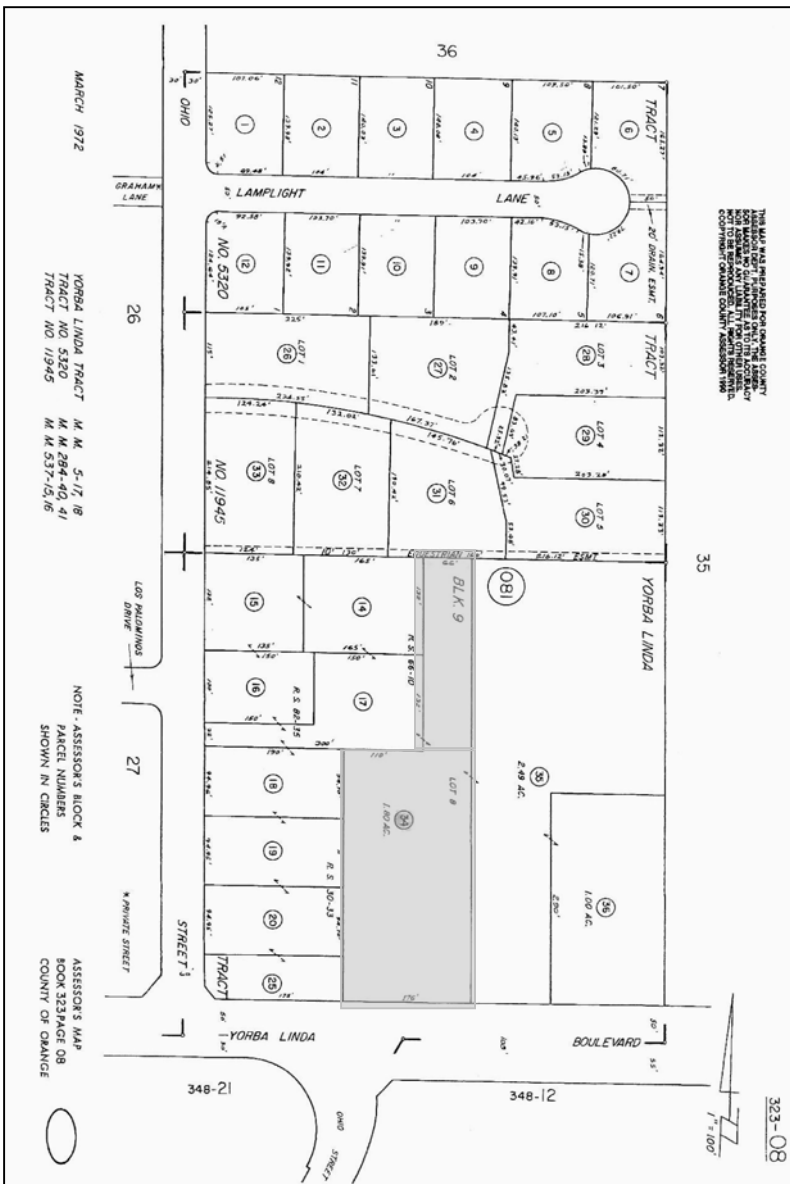
The response of the Rebbe (located in the lower left hand portion of the letter in Hebrew script):

"I'll mention it at my father-in-law's grave."

[ed. Note — This is the blessing.]

THIS MAP WAS PREPARED FOR ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, BY THE ASSessor's OFFICE, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. THE ASSessor HAS CONDUCTED A VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE PROPERTY SHOWN HEREON AND FINDS THE SAME TO CONFORM TO THE RECORDS OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

323-08



MARCH 1972
 YORBA LINDA TRACT M. M. 5-17-18
 TRACT NO. 5320 M. M. 284-40-41
 TRACT NO. 11945 M. M. 537-1516

NOTE - ASSESSOR'S BLOCK & PARCEL NUMBERS SHOWN IN CIRCLES

ASSESSOR'S MAP BOOK 323 PAGE 08 COUNTY OF ORANGE

County Assessor's Office Plat Man

candidates set

Yorba Linda Republican Women Federated are planning "An Evening with the Candidates," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, at Yorba Linda Republican Club headquarters, 17750 Yorba Linda Blvd., in the Alpha Beta Shopping center.

For information, call club president Kathleen W. Rosenberg at 777-4105 or Beverly McCarby at 993-4345.

SYNAGOGUE:

Continued from page 4

Eliezrite said the local Jewish community has gotten so large that it is attracting local synagogues. "In the last five years, 6,000 Jewish people have come to live here," he said.

The synagogue already is in motion. Hebrew classes opened this week offering instruction to about 30 youngsters.

Next week, they will celebrate Yom Kippur, a Holy Day on the Jewish calendar. At 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, the synagogue will hold a traditional Kol Nidre service at the Yorba Linda Masonic Lodge, 1010 Main Street, in Yorba Linda.

At 9 a.m. Wednesday, the synagogue will hold another service, where the symbolic Shofar, or ram's horn, will herald the beginning of the new year.

For information, call 883-0770.

Expirates (Illustration Village Center)

EXPIRES 9-24-88

BRAHMA BOOSTER BINGO

EVERY SATURDAY

All Games \$250

VALUABLE DOOR PRIZES!!

Boyle Cares Available

DIAMOND BAR HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

21400 E. Pochin Road Diamond Bar, Ca 91765

Doors Open 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar 6:30 p.m. Regular 7:00 p.m.

Free Coffee Sheriff Security



Staff photo by Curt Horne

New synagogue: Rabbi Yehuda Lazar and David Eliezrite are the guiding force of Yorba Linda's Beth Meir synagogue. The Jewish Chabad Community Center plans to build a facility on Yorba Linda Boulevard. Until then, the synagogue will operate out of a local home.

Synagogue finds a home

By Janette Neumann Staff Writer

It's a small beginning, but it will do for now, said Rabbi David Eliezrite of the Beth Meir Synagogue in Yorba Linda.

The synagogue — which operated in Anaheim Hills public schools until the purchase of the one-acre lot on Yorba Linda Boulevard earlier this year — has found a permanent home.

Next week, the synagogue will hold its first service in Yorba Linda. The 100-member synagogue has settled in the area because of a recent influx of Jewish families from the Los Angeles area.

Goals are in place for the synagogue's new location. By next year, synagogue leaders hope to tear down the house and begin construction of a new complex that will house religious buildings, offices and classrooms. The synagogue now is being operated out of the house.

Eliezrite, who with Rabbi Yehuda Lazar lead the North Orange County Habat Center, posted a temporary sign at the site last week drawing attention to the synagogue's new location.

The synagogue became "official" with a city-approved zone change that will allow the religious center to expand into a Hebrew school, a Jewish day camp and offices are planned for the site, Eliezrite said.

The 100-member synagogue has settled in the area because of a recent influx of Jewish families from the Los Angeles area.

See SYNAGOGUE, 21

Newspaper Clipping from the Yorba Linda Star
Announcing the New Property in Yorba Linda,
September 15, 1988

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11233
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
770 אסטערן פארקוויי
ברוקלין, נ.י.

By the Grace of G-d
28th of Teves, 5750
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Annual Dinner event of the
North County Chabad Center
Yorba Linda, CA

Greeting and Blessing!

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming event
taking place on the 2nd day of Shevat, 5750. I extend
prayerful wishes to all participants.

It is highly significant that this event is taking place
in "Shnas HoArboim", this being the fortieth year of the
passing of my saintly predecessor, my father-in-law the
Rebbe - a highly significant milestone.

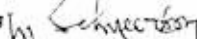
The Torah tells us that everyone in the 40th year of his
activities (studies, activities), attains a deeper knowledge,
a keener perception and a fuller appreciation of the eternal
values, in which he has been and is involved.

It follows from the above, that such understanding and
appreciation calls for new dimensions in terms of one's
dedication and participation in the ongoing and expanding
activities and institutions that have been founded by the
Rebbe and are conducted in his spirit and guidelines.

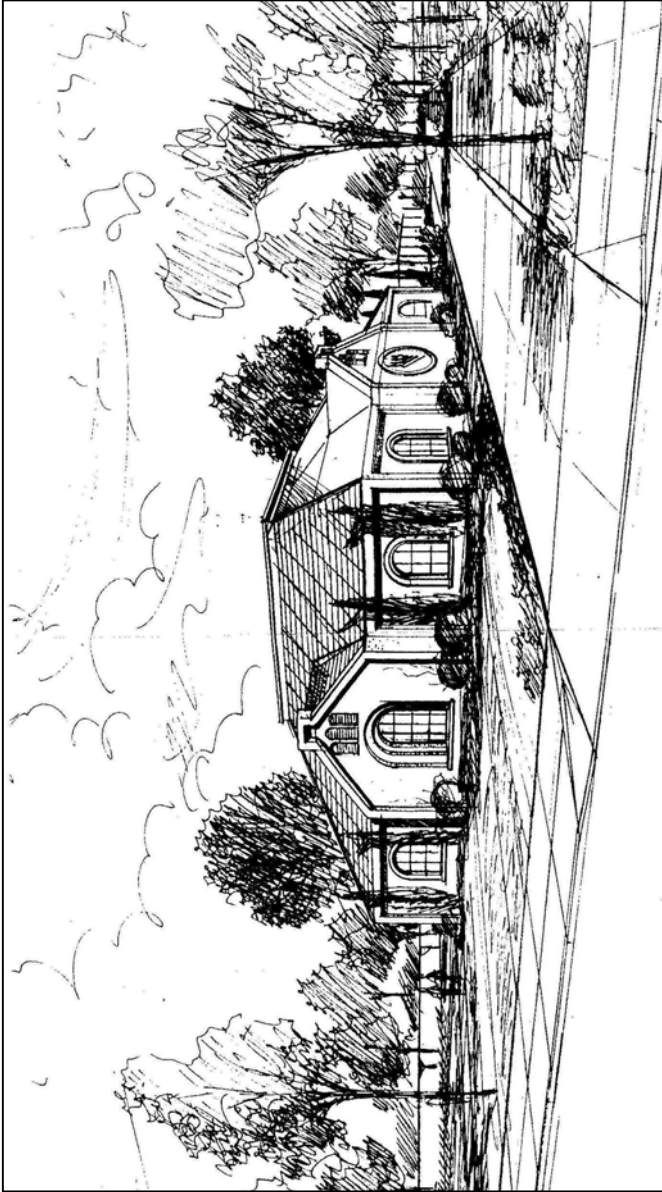
Moreover, the current year תש"ל, which has been designated
as a year of Nissim (miracles), adds a further meaning
to the message relating to the event. In Loshon HaKodesh,
the word Nes (miracle) also means a flagpole, or banner,
which is used as an effective means of rallying people
together for a common purpose. And, of course, the common
purpose of all Jews is to make this world a fitting "dwelling
place" for HaShem - in our heart and mind, in our home
and in our community, and in the world at large.

in light of the above, I am confident that all friends
and supporters of Chabad Lubavitch, will henceforth - open
even more fully their hearts, eyes, and ears to the vital
activities of spreading and strengthening Torah and Yiddishkeit
in your area, and the world over.

May HaShem bless each and all of you with Hatzlocho in
all the above, as well as in all your other worthy endeavors,
materially and spiritually.

With esteem and blessing 

Letter From Rabbi Shneerson to North County
Chabad Center of Yorba Linda
28 Teves 5750 (January 25, 1990)



Artist's Rendering of the New Chabad Center

A PLACE FOR OUR FUTURE



The Beginning of the New Chabad Sanctuary